



PATENT  
Attorney Docket No. 101.0084-00000  
Customer No. 22882

#17

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
)  
Gary K. Michelson, M.D. ) Group Art Unit: 3738  
)  
Serial No.: 09/457,228 )  
) Examiner: B. Snow  
Filed: December 8, 1999 )  
)  
For: SPINAL IMPLANT SURFACE )  
CONFIGURATION )

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(c), applicant brings to the attention of the Examiner the document listed on the attached PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the events recited in Section 1.97(b) but, to the undersigned's knowledge, before the mailing date of either a Final Action or a Notice of Allowance. Under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c), this Information Disclosure Statement is accompanied by a fee of \$180.00 as specified by Section 1.17(p).

A copy of the listed document is attached.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the listed document and indicate that it was considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that the listed document is

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material or constitutes "prior art." If the Examiner applies the document as prior art against any claims in the application and applicant determines that the cited document does not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicant reserves the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such document.

Applicant further reserves the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed document should the document be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 50-1066.

Respectfully submitted,

MARTIN & FERRARO, LLP

Date: 11-5-2002

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